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When we started working for the state (38 and 41) years ago, we were told that our pensions would NOT be taxed. During our careers and when we retired, we made many plans and decisions based on the constitutional promise that are pensions would NOT be taxed. Now the governor wants to tax all of our pensions and eliminate other provisions for seniors. This is not changing the rules in the middle of the game. This is changing the rules after the fact. How is this fair? Is there no concern for following the constitution by this legislature or the governor?

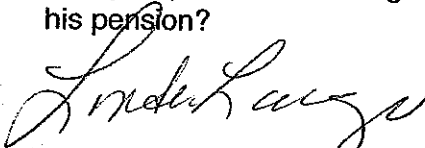
How is it fair to tax retirees after the fact, in order to ELIMINATE taxes on business? Business that have no incentive to hire more workers. And many have indicated that they will NOT hire more employees. How is this moral or ethical? Is there no middle ground?

Many retirees have retired to care for aging parents or other family members. Taxing pensions will be a hardship for them. I know a "young" retiree who is helping to care for a younger relative, who needs constant supervision. She and her mother are helping to care for this person. If this poorly designed legislation passes, her pension will be taxed. How is this fair?

A YOUNGER friend of ours will not have her pension taxed. The reason, she married an older person whose pension won't be taxed, so hers also will not be taxed. Ours will be taxed until we are 67. How is this fair or simple?

Others have retired due to health reasons. And are not able or likely to get another job if they looked for months or even years, especially considering their age, health and today's economy. How is this fair to change the rules after they made their plans and decisions based on no tax on their pensions.

Today, I spoke with a college friend. He told me was retired, not voluntarily. How is it fair to tax his pension?

 4 May 18, 2011
Linda Largo

 May 11, 2011
Michael Largo

If pensions must be taxed, then it should apply only to new employees, not current employees or retirees.